hjoy carnival

mail: news@arubatoday.comWebsite: www.arubatoday.com Thursday, February 19, 2009



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 34.62

INSIDE TODAY
U.S. NEWS

## **BUCKING STIMULUS**

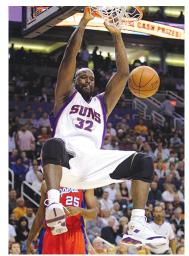


In a Monday, Dec. 1, 2008 file photo, Louisiana Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal answers questions at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport in Kenner, La. Even as their states face crushing budget deficits and soaring unemployment, the Republican governors of Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas are considering turning down some of the stimulus package money.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### SPORTS NEWS

### **SUNS SHINE**



Phoenix Suns' Shaquille O'Neal scores against the Los Angeles Clippers' during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009 in Phoenix.

See Sports Today

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino completes \$50 million renovation

## **Bill Marriott inspects Aruba's Playground for all Generations**

PALM BEACH - The island of Aruba held the honor of welcoming Mr. Bill Marriott to the island yesterday. He started his visit at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino with a site inspection lead by the resort's General Manager Rick Zeolla and his executive team. Mr. Marriott enjoyed a full property tour during including Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Marriott's Aruba Surf Club and the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. Both guests and Marriott associates took the opportunity to take pictures with him during his short stay. Mr. Marriott and his delegation took this opportunity to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club in Champion's Sports Bar and the completion of the \$50 million dollar face lift.

Continued on Page B5



Chairman & CEO of Marriott International Mr. Bill Marriott is pictured together with Aruba's Prime Minister Nelson Oduber, Minister of Tourism and Transportation Edison Briesen, Mr. Walter Stipa of Desarrollos Hotelco S.A. and the hotel operator The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C, and Aruba Marriott's General Manager Rick Zeolla.

Photo by Julia Renfro

## Bill Marriott meets Renaissance Hotel Team of the Year



Oranjestad – Bill Marriott visiting the island and the Renaissance resorts enjoyed

the distinct pleasure of meeting the resort's Team of the Year, in the lobby upon his arrival. Developer Eduardo De Veer and hotel manager Paul Gielen introduced the legendary Chairman and CEO of Marriott International to the winners of the annual in-house excellence awards, sharing a photo opportunity in the atrium.

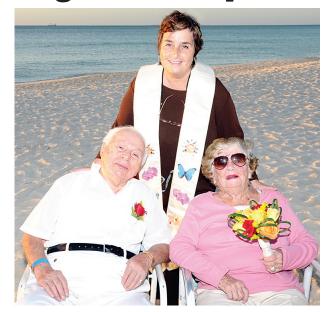
Members of the Team of the Year were elected from among quarterly award winners, and included Pedro Santos, a houseman with the Housekeeping Department at the Marina Hotel, Eduardo Semerel, a Bellman at the Marina Hotel, Fernando Orihuela, a Sound Engineer and Rufat Geerman, and Event Manager, both working for the Renaissance Convention Center.

Continued on Page 4





## Regina & Joseph renew 70 years of marriage on Valentines Day



### By Angela Munzenhofer

EAGLE BEACH – Valentine's was created to remind people of the love that is all around them. Angela Munzenhofer of Bella Aruba Photography came up with a "Once in a Lifetime" renewal of vows for a special couple that she had met through Aruba Today. Regina & Joseph H. Cohen of Hull, Massachusetts have spent 7 decades together as husband and wife. The couple is no stranger to Aruba especially with 16 years of returning to their home away from home at La Cabana with their daughter Gitta and husband Thomas Millos.

Joseph will be turning 102 this year and his lovely wife Regina who turned 98 in January. They were truly blessed on February 23, 1939 and now 70 years later on Aruba they enjoyed a renewal of marriage in both love and health.

On February 14, 2009, Joseph and Regina received the biggest surprise in their lives. As they were eating breakfast that day they grabbed an Aruba Today and were in shock to see them on the front page. They immediately starting reading and read that the surprise welcomes all who know the Cohen's on the beach at Eagle at 5:30 pm. Of course Gitta new who was behind the mastermind and called Angela to see what was cooking behind the scenes. She was told to get dressed for an evening to never forget. At 5:30 pm as they reached the beach and found a bouquet of roses and a boutonniere in the hands of dear friend Angela Munzenhofer and reverend Diane Keijzer.







The surprise grew stronger once they immersed onto the beach and seen the Tropical aisle adorned with sea shells and tiki torches with red sashes blowing in the wind. Joseph and Regina had smiles from ear to ear as they walked hand and hand and seen all their longtime friends and Aruba friends who surround them to witness the renewal of vows. Officiate Diane Keijzer delivered an amazing sermon with her unique words combined with Jewish tradition for a most memorable renewal of vows for the Cohen's. For those of you who know Joseph, he had everyone in laughter by his cute remarks as the ceremony continued. They vowed their loved once again as husband and wife and shared inner feelings of their years together. The blessing finished by Joseph breaking a glass as a tradition and everyone shouting "Mazal Tov" as Joseph sang a Hebrew song of celebration. Everyone rejoiced and clapped hands for the beautiful couple, hugs and kisses of congratulations followed by a champagne toast and cutting of two chocolate heart cakes. Bella Aruba Photography captured those special moments as the family sat and watched the sunset disappear behind the horizon

The Buccaneer Restaurant invited the family to dine at the restaurant because they were such great patrons throughout the years. Buccaneer patrons were congratulating the couple with Aruba newspaper in hand.

Joseph and Regina enjoyed every moment of their special day even though Regina thought it was not possible to marry twice. The family who were not on the island to celebrate the special occasion was their son Alan Cohen, three Grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Angela Munzenhofer of Bella Aruba Photography wants to thank all the participating vendors who reached out and gave a love from their heart to make this a renewal of vows to cherish forever.

Many thanks to the following vendors who made this anniversary possible:

Edwina Wereleman of E2 Events and Celebrations who supplied the torches adorned in red sashes and the Queen Helmet shells that made the aisle a tropic splendor.

Diane Keijzer, who was ordained in 2003 as a non-denominational reverend who did an outstanding job by delivering the Sermon with special readings of Jewish tradition and words of sentimental values. Pierre Kock, Food & Beverage Director at La Cabana for his presence at the ceremony, 2 valentine cakes, chocolate covered strawberries and two bottles of champagne.

La Cabana Resort for the beautiful beach, wonderful staff and for making their guests feel at home. Koolman Flower shop, Aruba's oldest Florist shop for the bountiful bouquet of roses and red rose boutonniere. A special thank you goes to a special lady in







the audience who videotaped the renewal and is making copies for the family so they can cherish the special words and celebration. With everyone's love they all created a perfect island setting for the lovely couple. Love for two special people who will forever remain in the hearts of the Aruban people and tourists alike. It's these small things that make the world a better place and put a smile in the eyes of loved ones and friends. Each day, each hour, each minute, is special. "Live for today, for tomorrow is promised to no one". Happy Anniversary from all of us to you, Mazal Tov!!!





## Discover Aruba's #1 Bestselling Novel



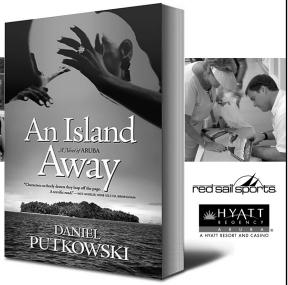




# FRI FEB 20 BOOK SIGNING HYATT REGENCY ARUBA RESORT 9AM-1PM

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 85, Palm Beach (High Rise Hotel Area). Books will be on sale at **RED SAIL SPORTS** Gift Shop.

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## **Aruban Government welcomes the Ritz Carlton**





ORANJESTAD - While many projects in our region are being postponed, cancelled or abandoned, Aruba welcomes the Ritz Carlton Aruba Resort, which requires an investment of 360.000.000 Florins. This shows confidence in our tourism product and stable economy.

Today, it is with great pride the Government of Aruba announces that the parties involved in the development of The Ritz-Carlton Aruba Resort & Spa, have concluded successful negotiations, and we expect the construction of this prestigious project to start soon. Although we are pleased with the result, we must point out that road toward this achievement was lengthy and difficult.

Approximately some 15 years ago, the government of Aruba under the Cabinet Oduber II, which I presided, had the vision to bring a Five Star Resort and a luxury brand such as The Ritz Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. to Aruba. Unfortunately, progress on this specific project continued to stall.

Years later, as tourism in Aruba continued to evolve, the Government believed our tourism industry had outgrown its infancy stage and was ready for upscale and luxury product options. Therefore, the Government of Aruba persisted in its objective to bring a Five Star Resort to our island and organized a Request for Qualification and Proposal (RFQP) procedure and process. Desarrollos Hotelco S.A., who submitted an offer for a luxury resort, has been selected by the evaluating committee as the preferred respondent, with best offer that also complied with the Government's requirements. The



"adventure or swindle".

Over the past several years, the global economy has been confronted with various challenges that have left their mark on the tourism industry, including the SARS epidemic, and more recently,

the global financial crisis.

caution to ensure that this is not another

Taking into account our limited resources, we cannot have the aspiration and pretension of the G7 countries by investing billion florins of community money in incentives to bail out the economy. Nevertheless, the Government sees itself playing an important role as trendsetter that in accordance with its financial strength and ability will invest in social, educational and infrastructural projects, leaving commercial productive

projects to the private sector. We believe that this is the task of a visionary and solid Government. Thanks to the great efforts and contribution of our community, we were able to create an attractive and stable investment climate for local as well as foreign investors.

Today, despite all the setbacks, the Government of Aruba is proud to announce the construction of the 320-room The Ritz-Carlton Aruba Resort & Spa at Hadicurari/Basi Ruti. We must point out and stress that contrary to most projects of the past; this resort will be developed and built without a Tax Holiday and without a Government Guarantee.

We are also pleased and proud with the fact that the partners in this venture have appointed a local financial institution, viz. the Aruban Investment Bank N.V. (AIB), as consortium leader to arrange

and secure the project financing. Given the continuing effects of a global recession, the developer, Mr. Walter Stipa of Desarrollos Hotelco S.A., and the hotel operator The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C, were encouraged to modify the project plans. The Ritz-Carlton Aruba Resort shall consist of well-designed and appointed hotel rooms of high quality standards consistent with The Ritz-Carlton brand. We consider Mr. Bill Marriott and Mr. Walter Stipa as good friends of Aruba, and on behalf of the Aruban community, we wish them all the best of success with this prestigious project, which undoubtedly will enhance our tourism infrastructure. Their trust and confidence in our tourism and economy suggest and is proof that we remain one of the most attractive tourism destinations in the Caribbean.

We must stress that bringing a Luxury Five Star hotel to Aruba does not mean that Aruba automatically becomes a five star resort destination. We must continue to improve our product by motivating and training the workers in the industry, while the hotels shall keep investing in remodeling, refurbishing and upgrading the hotel plants.

You should see and evaluate in that scope our efforts to move to the cargo port from Oranjestad to Barcadera and the revitalization of the downtown shopping district (Down Town Development).

In closing, we want to reiterate our commitment with the enhancement of our tourism product, by using a variant of president Obama's slogan: "Yes we can and Yes we will!"

## Aruba TODAY

## **Marriott meets Renaissance Hotel Team of the Year**



Continued from Front Page The winners were selected of the House, in the 1st from among a handful of hard-working individuals, nominated for the Team of

the Year, from the Heart quarter Brigido Rasmijn, Landscaping; in the 2nd quarter Gerald Thiel,







## **NIGHT SHOPPING UNTIL 10:30PM**

Cold Beer prices ranges from \$2. Souvenirs a wide variety of snacks. Also available Rums made in Aruba at a good price. T-Shirt at \$4. / Aruba bags \$8.

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Engineering; in the 3rd Glenda Nurse, Steward Ocean Suites and in

the 4th quarter Pedro Santos, Housekeeping Marina Hotel, who won top honors.



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We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars. Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%. With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

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Front of the House nominees included in the 1st quarter Andrey Mokryak, Smith's Steak & Chop House; in the 2nd quarter Italo Mujica; in the 3rd quarter Keila Maduro, both from Aquarius Restaurant and in the 4th quarter Eduardo Semerel, Bellman, outshone others. wgo

Also nominated for Supervisor of the Year for the1st quarter Carlos Arango, Ocean Suites Kitchen; for the 2nd quarter Rosenda L.G. Smith's Lopez Steak & Chop House; 3rd quarter Primkoemar Manna, from Blue and for the 4th quarter, Fernando Orihuela, the winner hailing from the Convention Center. As Manager of the Year the choice included for the 2nd quarter, Francisco Faro, Renaissance Island; for the 3rd quarter Rebecca Verschoor, Sales & Marketing and for the 4th quarter Rufat Geerman, Event Manger, who walked away with the trophy.

Winners were announced at a gathering hosted by the department of human resources, and the awards were presented by general manager Paul Gielen, over cocktails and a rich and varied hand-rolled sushi bar.



## ill Marriott inspects Aruba's Playground for all Generations









Continued from Front Page

have completely reinvented our lobby and reception area, creating a public space that provides for intimate conversations and casual lounging with seating areas that overlook our pool deck and the Caribbean Sea beyond it," Zeolla says. "Once you check-in, be warned, you might never want to leave your room - as all 411 of our guest rooms and suites have been entirely made over with brand new furnishings, luxurious bedding, marble sinks, rain-style shower heads, flat screen televisions, and modern technology," he continued.

The delegation inspected the new upgrades including the new Tradewinds Club, which is 59 room VIP section of the resort which is "hotel within a hotel" nestled on the top floor. They strolled

through the amazing new Ruth Chris Steakhouse and the astonishing La Vista Restaurant boasting the most amazing view on the island of Aruba's sugar white beach and turquoise

Mr. Marriott's visit to the

property ended with an executive lunch with the Aruba's Prime Minister Nelson Oduber, Minister of Tourism and Transportation Edison Briesen, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Authority CEO Rob Smith, Mr. Walter Stipa Desarrollos Hotelco

S.A. and the hotel operator The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C together with nearly 2 dozen Marriott & Renaissance executives. As a grand finale to the tour, Mr. Marriott was presented a gift from 22 of Aruba's most aspiring young artists.

The students of local artist Miriam De'Lisle gave Mr. Marriott a painting that each of them added to entitled "Aruba's Playground for all Generations".

Photos by Julia Renfro





Monday - Saturday 08.00AM - 10:00PM

Sunday Closed

TEL: (297) 586-3378

Happy Carnival Legendary Reggae Band The Wailers to Headline

## he 29th Annual St. Maarten Heineken Regatta March 5-8, 2009

Antilles [February 16, 2009]-The legendary Wailers, who are the greatest exponents of reggae music in the world, are now confirmed to headline the 29th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta on Sunday, March 8, 2009 as part of the Serious Fun celebrations. The band, recognized worldwide

Netherlands as the only group still capable of delivering Bob Marley's message of peace, love and equality will be performing on Kim Sha Beach to close out the Caribbean's largest regatta. The Wailers have brought reggae music to every corner of the globe, selling over 250 million albums and playing to an estimated 24

million people. The group is now led by bassist and musical director Aston "Family Man" Barrett, the group's sole surviving founder and driving musical force, who was well known as Bob Marley's right hand-man during the singer's lifetime. The current Wailers - a group that's one of the last, great

to live off past glories; where "Family Man" represents tried and trusted roots authenticity, singer Elan Atias, injects fresh excitement into a show that continues to attract enthusiastic audiences from around the world. "The Wailers are one of the

reggae institutions - refuses legendary Caribbean

that have helped define reggae music," says John Leone, Director of Heineken St Maarten. "They have brought reggae out of the Caribbean and onto the world music scene for all to enjoy. Although we certainly can never replace Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and others from the original band, the band still drives on to spread great music and great times all over the world. I feel the Wailer's music is just the message we all need to hear right now. Imagine your feet in the sand on a beautiful night, surrounded by people from all over the world together singing 'One Love' and 'Don't worry... about a thing...'Cause every little thing... is gonna be alright!' We are honored to have them perform here for the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, it will be a performance to remember, a whole day to be enjoyed, and a St.Maarten Heineken Regatta to never forget!" "The Heineken St. Maarten Regatta is globally renowned for its commitment to Serious Fun by annually presenting the best in music to its international sailing competitors and the local audience" said Christine Hansen, President & CEO of Thirty-Three Productions, Inc. "We are thrilled to bring the legendary Wailers for the 29th Anniversary and to again deliver world class talent to Heineken and the people of St. Maarten for this year's Regatta." Closing out the regatta will be a day of reggae music on Kim Sha Beach, The organizers are calling the day "Reggae-gatta", a fun mix of Reggae and Regatta. The "Reggae-gatta" festivities on Sunday are planned for the whole family to enjoy with food, drinks and great music. The day's lineup will have the best of the local reggae bands Ras Bushman, Barbwire Band, Roots down below and the internationally renown home-grown heroes Orange Grove. Sunday activities will kick off at 12:00PM noon. The four-day event concludes with The Wailers' performance later that night and promises to be an unforgettable experience. Other acts that have been announced for the regatta weekend, which starts on Thursday March 5 through Sunday March 8, are 3-Cylinder from Antigua, CaRiMi with Haitian roots and Kes the Band from Trinidad, along with St. Maarten's best local talent.

4ruba TODAY

Visit www.wailers.com or www. heinekenregatta.com for more information.



"My boss is the best, he even cleans my uniforms"

Louis, bartender, Westin



"I used to spend a lot of hours on doing the laundry and not in the least, on the ironing in order to get my uniform to be spic & span. Now my boss has hired Oranjestad Laundry and they take care of all my uniforms, and it doesn't cost me a dime. On the contrary, I save money and time and he is always sure I look at my best."

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- Security firms
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- automobile service garages
- Refinery employees and contractors
- Fast food restaurants
- Etc., etc.

## LOCAL A7 Thursday, February 19, 2009

## Loyal visitors honored at the Casa del Mar Resort

EAGLE BEACH - Recently at the Casa del Mar Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Casa del Mar Resort which they call their home away from home. Ronald & Diane Roy, Jordan Roy and also Robert Roy & Angela Kasek were honored as an distinguished visitor for the Island of Aruba after coming for 10 consecutive

Pictured are Casa del Mar Rep. together with all honores.□









HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE



L.G. SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

www.lgsmiths.com

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House offers mouthwatering American steak house fare and an extensive international wine list. Enjoy Aruba's premiere location for suberb dining in a stylish décor.

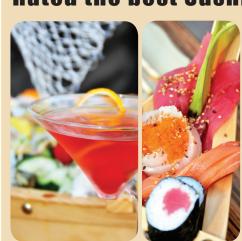
## GREAT SHOW, GREAT STEAKS, GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PRICES

Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm For reservations call **523-6195** Located next to the Crystal Casino

\*Price includes show ticket and 3-course dinner show men

Chef says; "Only the highest quality will do"

## Rated the best Sushi on Aruba: Nobushi



PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

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Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere

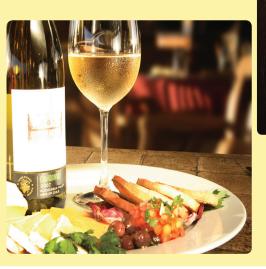
## **Matthew's gets it right**

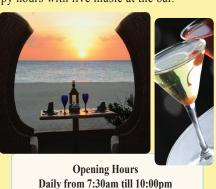


resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain make a reservation, but if you want to just child of Stefan Legger, who owned and op- give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a ereatd Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Mat- great bar which will keep you abreast of all thew's redefines the concept of a beachside the action, whether it's sports on one of their restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat friendly and demonstrate very clearly that spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events happy hours with live music at the bar.

EAGLE BEACH - Located at Casa del Mar and weddings, it very advisable to call and on Sundays and of course their famous daily





**Daily Happy Hours** 4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)



On Friday Night... Be KOOL tonight!

## **Celebrate Bob's Birthday MARLEY MANICS**

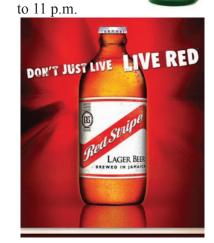
Twofers for everyone



PALM BEACH -Come spend the night at Kool Runnings celebrating Legend of Reggae Bob Marley's birthday on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The celebration starts at 7PM with live reggae music by Rots Rebel & DJ Danny Platinum... This is your one stop for the best "real" Caribbean Cuisine accompanied by the unique flavors of Red Stripe Beer, Guinness, and Me

Kool Runnings is offering a Twoorders a Regular Meal this week. Runnings is located in the South Beach Center behind Segafredo Open from 11 a.m

Kool



## Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown

## Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours.

Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

crust, dripping with cheese down by an Italian chef, and fresh-made tomato known locally as "the pizza sauce, this pizza comes with master", in the French a variety of toppings in the student city of Montpellier meat and veggie categories. in 1969. This recipe has been Pasta dishes, full Italian perfected over the years to meals like Lasagne and veal such a point where Casa Osso Buco, fresh salads Tua is known on the island and rich desserts are also these days for the best pizza. on the menu.

With a Sicilian-style thin thin crust recipe was handed

Casa Tua's famous secret Casa Tua Palm Beach open 5pm to 11pm. open 11am to 11pm, Sundays 5pm to 11pm.

> For more information or reservations call Palm Beach: 586 8470 Downtown: 588 5695 Or ask your concierge.



Every dish a surprise to the senses

## Moby Dick's; Directly from the Seas to your Plate

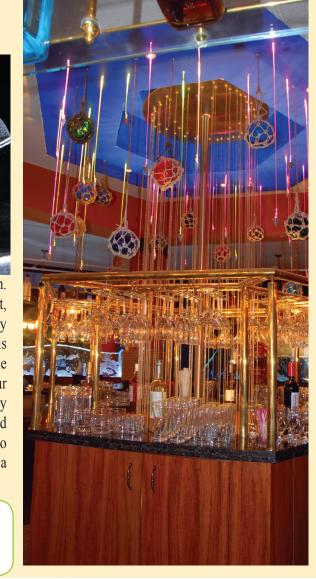
PASEO HERENCIA - inside is studded with Moby Dick's has one artwork, amazing glass mission; to take you to carvings, and both the depths of the blue floors are dominated ocean to taste some by gigantic fountains, of the most exquisite with water running dishes to come from from ceiling to floor the deep. What a truly along multicoloured lit beautiful restaurant this fibre optic cables. The is, and what a unique stairway is lined by interior to match. The an impressive painting

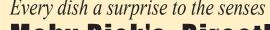


which runs along the complete menu for you to choose from. wall. The menu promises You will find what you want, to be a true seafood lovers whatever your craving may dream. Lobsters, fresh fish be at that time. The staff is fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's amongst the friendliest on the has everything on the menu. island, ever so attentive to your There is of course a land every whim. So long story lubbers section for those who short, for unbelievable seafood are so disposed. The wine list in unique surroundings, go to is impressive to say the least, Moby Dick's. You'll have a and the cocktails are definitely whale of a time! worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive

For More info & Reservations Call: 586 8333





## Thursday, February 19, 2009 ADVERTISEMENT

## Aruba\_TODAY

# Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.





Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Te1.583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □





## "Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday.

And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

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## BUSINESS ATT Thursday, February 19, 2009

## bama unveils \$75 billion mortgage relief plan

ALAN ZIBEL.

### **Associated Press Writers**

MESA, Ariz. - Seeking to tackle "a crisis unlike any we've ever known," President Barack Obama unveiled an ambitious \$75 billion plan Wednesday to keep as many as 9 million Americans from losing their homes to foreclosure. Announcing the plan in Arizona — a state especially hard hit by the housing crunch — Obama said that turning around the battered economy requires stemming the continuing tide of foreclosures. The housing crisis that began last year set many other factors in motion and helped lead to the current, widening recession.

"In the end, all of us are paying a price for this home mortgage crisis," Obama said at a high school outside Phoenix. "And all of us will pay an even steeper price if we allow this crisis to deepen."

But while talking in broad strokes about the importance of the issue to the economy as a whole, the president took care not to miss the pain that the housing problems are causing in individual families "The American Dream is being tested by a home mortgage crisis that not only threatens the stability of our economy but also the stability of families and neighborhoods," he said. "While this crisis is vast, it begins just one house and one family at a time."

More expensive than expected, Obama's plan aims to keep between 7 million and 9 million people from foreclosure. Of the nearly 52 million U.S. homeowners with a mortgage, about 13.8 million, or nearly 27 percent, owe more on their mortgage than their house is now worth, according to Moody's Economy.com.

Headlining Obama's plan is a \$75 billion Homeowner Stability Initiative, which

By MARK S. SMITH and would provide a set of incentives to mortgage lenders in an effort to convince them to help up to 4 million borrowers on the verge of foreclosure. The goal: cut monthly mortgage payments to sustainable levels, defined as no more than 31 percent of a homeowners income. Funding would come from the \$700 billion financial industry bailout passed by Congress last fall.

Another key component would specifically help those said to be "under water" with dwellings whose market value have sunk below the principal still owed on the mortgages. Such mortgages have traditionally been almost impossible to refinance. But the White House said its program will help 4 million to 5 million families do just that — if their mortgages are owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan stressed that homeowners don't need to be delinquent in order to get help.

"This is necessary policy. It's smart economics. And it's just and fair," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told reporters.

Asked why the cost had jumped to \$75 billion from initial talk of a \$50 billion effort, Geithner said, "We think that's necessary to make a program like this work."

And he said relief would be almost instantaneous, basically as soon as rules are published March 4. "You'll start to see the effects quite quickly", Geithner said.

Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said previous efforts had largely flopped. "We've not attacked the problem at the core," she told reporters. "We are woefully behind the curve."

The biggest players in the

mortgage industry already had halted foreclosures pending Obama's announcement.

"The plan I'm announcing focuses on rescuing families who have played by the rules and acted responsibly," Obama said. "It will not rescue the unscrupulous or irresponsible by throwing good taxpayer money after bad loans."

He issued a warning as well: "All of us must learn to live within our means again."

He said the plan will not help those who took risky bets by buying homes to sell them, not live in them, or dishonest lenders who distorted facts for naive buyers, or buyers who signed on for loans they knew they could not afford.

"This plan will not save every home," Obama said.

In tandem with the foreclosure plan, the Treasury Department announced it would double the size of its lifeline to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, seeking to bolster confidence in the mortgage giants effectively taken over by the government last fall. The government said it would absorb up to \$200 billion in losses at each company, by using money Congress set aside last year, and will continue purchasing mortgage-backed securities from them.

The Treasury said increased support for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac didn't reflect projected losses at the two companies. The two companies are currently projected to need a combined government subsidy of about \$66 billion, well short of the new promise of up to \$400 billion.

Asked about the doubling of the guarantees for Fannie and Freddie, Geithner said: "This is not a judgment about the expected losses ahead. It underscores commitment, and that is very important to help keep mortgage rates low." Geithner said most not all of



President Barack Obama waves to the crowd prior to speaking at Dobson High School in Mesa, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, regarding the housing foreclosure problem.

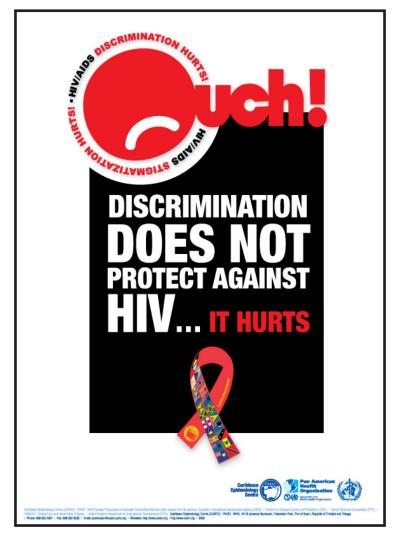
(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

the money would come the financial bailout fund.

The president's announcement came a day after he signed into law a \$787 billion economic stimulus plan he hopes will spark an economic turnaround and create or save 3.5 million

At the same time, the administration was grappling with the darkening prospects for the U.S. auto industry.

Even as Detroit carmakers submitted restructuring plans to qualify for continued government loans, General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC asked for another \$14 billion in bailout cash.



Thursday, February 19, 2009 BUSINESS

## Aruba\_TODAY

# Stocks end little changed on worries about economy

By TIM PARADIS, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Investors took scant comfort Wednesday from the government's plans to revive the housing market and overall economy.

Wall Street ended with only modest changes after a steep sell-off Tuesday on worries about the global economy and banks in Eastern Europe. Several moderate rallies unraveled Wednesday as market indicators hovered around the lows they marked in November.

Investors reacted coolly to a \$75 billion mortgage relief plan President Barack Obama introduced on Wednesday, which would provide incentives to mortgage lenders to help borrowers reduce their payments.

Plunging home values are at the center of the 14-month-old recession, which has been one of the most severe in decades. The announcement came a day after Obama signed into law a \$787 billion economic stimulus plan.

"First of all, we have to address the housing market and the more plans that are needed and the more plans that are announced — this is all part of the process," said Steven Goldman, chief market strategist, Weeden & Co., in Greenwich, Conn. He said it will take time for investors to determine whether the plans are working and that the lingering unknowns will lead to more volatility in the stock market.

According to prelminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average edged up 3.03, or 0.04 percent, to 7,555.63. For a second day, the blue chips managed to finish just above their November closing low.

Broader stock indicators slipped. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.75, or 0.10 percent, to 788.42, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 2.69, or 0.18 percent, to 1.467.97.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 5.72, or 1.33 percent, to 423.18.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 5 to 2 on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading volume came to a light 1.43 billion shares compared with 1.61 billion shares traded Tuesday.

Investors' caution Wednesday follows another round of downbeat news about the economy. The government said construction of homes and apartments tumbled by 16.8 percent in January to a record low annual rate. Applications for building permits also dropped to a record low.

The government also said production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities fell a greater-than-expected 1.8 percent last month. It marked the third straight month in which production fell.

The Federal Reserve slashed its projections for the country's economic performance this year, predicting the economy will shrink this year. In its previous forecast, the Fed still held out the possibility of growth in 2009.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke reiterated Wednesday that he would do everything he could do to loosen the recession's grip on the economy.

But some investors remain skeptical of the government's ability to lift the economy.

"There's a huge lack of confidence in that stimulus package," said David Hefty, chief executive of Cornerstone Wealth Management in Auburn, Ind.

The Dow finished inches above its November low on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, the blue chips tumbled 298 points, or 3.79 percent, to 7,552.60 — just 31-hundredths of a point above its Nov. 20 close of 7,552.29, which was its lowest finish since March 12, 2003.

The Dow and S&P remain above their Nov. 21 trading lows, an important psychological barrier for traders. For the Dow, 7,449.38 was the November trading low; for the S&P it was 741.02.

Jim Herrick, director of equity trading at Baird & Co. in Milwaukee, said the market

will continue to fluctuate until investors get a sense of whether the economic stimulus and housing plans are working.

"We're going to have a lot of gyrations. There's a good chance that we'll retest the lows," he said. Bond prices fell after jumping amid the slide in stocks Tuesday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.76 percent from 2.65 percent late Tuesday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, rose to 0.31 percent from 0.29 percent late Tuesday.



Michael Pistillo Jr., left, and Patrick Kenny, both of Barclays Capital, work at their post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Light, sweet crude fell 31 cents to settle at \$34.62 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.68 percent, Germany's DAX index lost 0.28 percent, and France's CAC-40 slipped 0.04 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 1.45 percent

## Canadian automakers to request more aid money

By CHARMAINE NORONHA,

**Associated Press Writer** 

TORONTO – The Canadian subsidiaries of General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC are expected to request more aid when they release their restructuring plans later this week, Ontario's provincial premier said Wednesday.

"We know that there are going to be more asks involved. We know that we're going to have to do more to help support the sector," said Dalton McGuinty during a press conference.

The premier of Ontario, the country's heartland of the auto industry, was referring to the Canadian automakers' viability plans that will be submitted to the federal and provincial Ontario government Friday so they can tap into government loans. The Canadian automakers' strategy plans are expected just days after their struggling parent companies asked the U.S. government for nearly \$22 billion more in federal aid. GM and Chrysler have so far received \$17.4 billion in loans from the U.S. Treasury. The additional aid request brings the price tag for saving GM and Chrysler to a hefty \$39 billion. GM also announced plans to cut 47,000 jobs and close five more U.S. plants as part of its restructuring strategy outlining how the automakers intend to again become viable and repay government loans.

A total of 26,000 of the GM cuts will come from outside the

U.S. It is not yet clear what the impact will be in Canada, where GM employs about 19,000 people. The cuts are expected to be made by the end of 2009. GM Canada did not immediately respond to calls for comment Wednesday.

Chrysler said it will cut 3,000 more jobs and stop producing three vehicle models.

"At first blush, in the grand scheme of things, it seems like good news," McGuinty said of the U.S. automakers' plans, referring specifically to word from Chrysler Chairman and CEO Bob Nardelli that the job cuts will not fall north of the U.S. border.

However, McGuinty called on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to impress upon President Barack Obama during their meeting in Canada's capital on Thursday that the operations of the Detroit Three auto makers are fully integrated in North America.

"Our fates are truly intertwined when it comes to the future of the sector. The only pitch I am making to U.S. decision makers is, 'we are part of the solution. We want to find a way to help you," said McGuinty.

Being part of the solution will likely involve Canada offering up 20 percent of the additional \$19-billion General Motors and Chrysler are seeking to stay afloat. In December, Canada's Conservative government and Ontario provincial government offered GM and Chrysler's Canadian subsidiaries CA\$4

billion (\$3 billion) in aid.

GM Canada recently declined the loan because it said it was able to temporarily support itself through "cost-saving measures." The Canadian automaker said it will still seek money from the Canadian governments to help execute its long-term plan.

The loan offered to Chrysler Canada is expected to be finalized in a few days, said McGuinty.

Along with Canadian governments acknowledging their role in helping the ailing auto sector, the president of the Canadian Auto Workers union has also said that the union will do its part to help the industry survive.

"We know that Chrysler, Ford and General Motors are going to be smaller companies and we know that based on the global financial crisis and based on what the government is going to put on their terms and conditions, the CAW is going to have to make some compromises," said Ken Lewenza.

The Canadian Auto Workers union already agreed to a three-year wage freeze in 2008, saving the industry about CA\$900 million (\$714 million) in wage costs, on top of agreeing to 13,000 jobs cuts in 2008.

Lewenza said CAW will now begin restructuring talks with the Canadian units of the Detroit Three automakers in the next few weeks and follow up with the Canadian management teams of the U.S. automakers to protect investment in Canada



## Obama inherited a fiscal disaster. Now what?

By Jim Cooper

Washington – Few Americans have any idea how bad the financial problems are that President Obama inherited from the Bush administration. Never mind the housing bubble, the bank meltdown, or the bailout scandals – I am talking about the failure of federal government to honestly account either for its own actions or for America's most important programs: Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid.

Aruba\_TODAY

George W. Bush took office after three years of budget surpluses under President Bill Clinton. Eight years later, Obama walked into the Oval Office to find – gift-wrapped with a bow, as he recently joked – almost \$11 trillion in Treasury debt, and deficits of more than \$1 trillion a year for the foreseeable future. That's a \$30,000 burden on every man, woman, and child in America, on top of the taxes they are already paying. Under better management, that number could have been

If this weren't bad enough, President Bush's financial legacy is marred by other fundamental problems. Bush's team borrowed more than \$1 trillion from the Social Security "trust fund" and seemed to spend it on everything except Social Security. Like Blanche DuBois in Tennessee Williams's "Streetcar Named Desire," Social Security now depends on the kindness of strangers – namely, future taxpayers and foreign lenders.

Worse, the Bush administration refused to tell the public about the extraordinary underfunding or overpromising of our major entitlement programs. According to an audited Treasury report, Medicare is \$34 trillion in the hole and Social Security is another \$13 trillion. We don't even know how to measure Medicaid's problems, but some estimates put the shortfall around \$30 trillion. To put this in perspective, the entire fiscal gap for America is at least four times as great as our total annual gross domestic product.

The US Treasury's Financial Report of the US Government is the key document for understanding these problems because it is the only place where Uncle Sam uses real accounting and audited numbers, just as every major company, charity, or state or local government is required to do by law. It is released every Dec. 15, and is available on the Treasury website. Until now, you have probably never heard of the Financial Report.

To its credit, the Obama White House has added a link to the Financial Report on its website, a step the Bush administration never took. The report will tell you that the per capita share of America's total obligations, including entitlements, is more

than \$184,000 each. The typical American family's share is roughly half a million dollars.

The truth hurts. But the real news is that the 2008 fiscal gap was more than \$3 trillion and worsening fast due to our entitlement problems. Hardly any reporter covered this story. And this was before the cost of economic recovery or shoring up our financial system. Including these costs, the 2009 fiscal gap could approach \$5 trillion.

Whether due to tradition, inertia, or ignorance, Uncle Sam refuses to weigh himself on an honest scale. It's a decision with serious consequences. Two leading credit rating agencies on Wall Street, Standard & Poor's and Moody's, projected – while Bush was still president – that the US Treasury bond could lose its AAA rating as soon as 2012. If we allow this projection to come true, the US will have plummeted from the prospect of being debt-free to destroying its credit rating in only eight years.

Standard & Poor's was unusually specific in its projection. It said that the US could have the same credit rating as Estonia or Greece by 2015, Poland or Mexico by 2020, and Panama by 2025. Panama's debt is below investment grade; it's junk. How can the greatest nation in the world be reduced to such comparisons? The answer is eight years of financial mismanagement.

The first rule of holes is to stop digging. President Bush not only failed to stop digging, he used a power shovel. The giant task of the Obama administration will be to build a tall enough ladder to help us climb out. This is a job that will take many years – perhaps decades.

The construction project starts Feb. 23, when Obama is expected to host a fiscal responsibility summit at the White House. His first challenge will be to explain the massive scope of the problem; next, he will have to convince Americans that he wants to preserve and strengthen the social safety net, not weaken it, as naysayers claim. Finally, Republicans and Democrats will have to agree to share some sacrifice. Nothing is off-limits: taxes and spending must both be on the table.

I have proposed forming a bipartisan fiscal reform commission that would hold public meetings around the country and then propose a framework for tax and entitlement reform. The chief virtue of the commission approach is that it starts the clock: If Congress, or the White House, has another solution, it will be considered alongside the commission's proposal.

What matters is that we solve these problems, which grow worse every day. All good-faith ideas must be welcomed.

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## **New Jersey, Virginia Dems Staring History In The Face**

**Syndication** 

New polling suggests that New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine faces a difficult challenge for re-election this year. A Monmouth University poll released last week shows that just 34% of Garden State voters approve of the job Corzine is doing, compared to 51% who disapprove. Another recent survey shows that Republican Chris Christie, who as the state's hard-charging U.S. attorney has pursued a number of high-profile corruption cases, is leading the Democrat 44% to 38%.

In Virginia, the only other state holding a gubernatorial election this year, Democrats face an uphill battle against former state Attorney General Bob McDonnell. A Rasmussen survey conducted on Feb. 4 had McDonnell leading each of his three potential rivals, state Sen. Creigh Deeds, former state Delegate Brian Moran and former DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe. None is as well known statewide as McDonnell, who will watch from the sidelines until the Democratic primary on June 9.

Circumstances in both states could certainly change by November. But more than the strength of Republican candidates, there's a unique historical pattern that should have Democrats concerned. Since 1989, the party that has controlled the White House has lost gubernatorial elections in each state.

That year, George H.W. Bush's first as president, New Jersey's Jim Florio and Virginia's Doug Wilder won their respective races. Republicans took back the offices in the two following elections, as Democrat Bill Clinton served in the White House. But the pendulum swung again in 2001 and 2005, when George W. Bush served as president.

Strategists in both national parties typically pay additional attention to these contests every four years. With only a handful of elections scheduled in the "off-year," these two key gubernatorial contests are often spun as a measure of the parties' strength heading into midterm election years.

Control of the state offices is considered an even greater priority in the coming years because of the role governors will play in shaping redistricting decisions after the 2010 census.



Thursday, February 19, 2009 PEOPLE & ARTS

## Oscar for Ledger would go to daughter Matilda

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) 22 Academy Awards - Matilda Ledger, the threeyear-old daughter of the late Heath Ledger, will be the eventual owner of the Oscar statuette if the Australian actor is named best supporting actor on Sunday.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said on Wednesday it has decided that if Ledger wins a rare posthumous Oscar for his performance as the villainous Joker in "The Dark Knight," Matilda would receive the Oscar after she turns 18 years old.

Ledger, 28, who died last year of a prescription drug overdose, is widely expected to win the best supporting actor Oscar at the February

in Hollywood after picking up virtually every other award in that category this season.

He would be only the second actor to receive an Oscar after death, following Peter Finch who won in 1976 for "Network."

"We have had Oscars awarded to a minor directly and Oscars awarded posthumously but generally there has been a spouse or an oldest child of legal age" to accept them, said Bruce Davis, executive director of the Academy. "I don't think we have ever had a situation like this."

Ledger's engagement to actress Michelle Williams, Matilda's mother, ended before his death and he was not

previously married. Matilda is too young to sign the winner's agreement, required of all nominees, which says the recipient will not sell his or her Oscar before offering it back to the Academy for \$1.

Davis said that discussions, Williams agreed she would hold any Oscar in trust for Matilda until her daughter turns 18. Matilda could then choose to keep the statuette or return it to the Academy.

"It was a new circumstance for us and we had to figure out what was fair and what would work," Davis said.

The Academy declined on Wednesday to say who would accept the Oscar at the podium on Ledger's behalf if he were

Cast member Gary Oldman accepts the Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role for Heath Ledger for 'The Dark Knight' at the 15th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles January 25, 2009.

to win.

At the Golden Globe awards, "Dark Knight" director Christopher Nolan accepted the trophy for Ledger and at the Screen Actors Guild honors, "Dark Knight" co-star Gary Oldman took the stage to

(Lucy Nicholson/Reuters) handle the statuette and make a speech on Ledger's behalf. His family in Australia have said they expect Matilda to eventually inherit those awards.

Aruba TODAY

(Reporting by Jill Serjeant; editing by Bob Tourtellotte)



By DAVID GERMAIN,

**AP Movie Writer** 

LOS ANGELES - The producers of "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" toiled for 18 years on their strange romantic epic, so simply bringing it to the screen — let alone grabbing a leading 13 Academy Awards nominations — was a victory. Winning any of those Oscars come Sunday night is another challenge. "Benjamin Button" is in a curious awards position, tied with eight past films for second-most nominations ever. Yet there's a slim chance it could go home emptyhanded, setting a record for Oscar futility by a single film. Of the 10 past films with 13 or more nominations, all won at least four Oscars. If "Benjamin Button" wound up being shut out, it would become the biggest loser ever, surpassing the zero-for-11 record by 1977's "The Turning Point" and 1985's "The Color Purple." In 2002, "Gangs of New York" went zero-for-10. "Benjamin Button" has been an omnipresent nominee at earlier Hollywood honors, but it has not won major prizes other than three technical trophies at last week's British Academy Film Awards.

It was shut out at the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards, while the directors, producers and writers guilds all passed it over for "Slumdog Millionaire," which



In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett are shown in a scene from, 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.'

(AP Photo/Paramount Pictures, Merrick Morton)

is expected to dominate the evening.

"Slumdog Millionaire" also defeated "Benjamin Button" for top honors from trade groups for cinematography and film editing, two of the seven total categories where both are competing at the Oscars. The historical pageant "The Duchess" beat "Benjamin Button" at the Costume Designers Guild Awards.

"Benjamin Button" considered a longshot in its top four categories: best picture, director (David Fincher), actor (Brad Pitt) and supporting actress (Taraji P. Henson).

"Slumdog Millionaire" is the heavy favorite to win best picture and director for Danny Boyle. Oddsmakers place Sean Penn ("Milk"), Mickey Rourke ("The Wrestler")

has 10 Oscar nominations and and Frank Langella ("Frost/ Nixon") ahead of Pitt and Penelope Cruz ("Vicky Cristina Barcelona") and Viola Davis ("Doubt") ahead of Henson.

> Even if it wins some of its other categories, losing out on best picture would put "Benjamin Button" producer Kathleen Kennedy in the Oscar record books. It would be Kennedy's sixth loss, tying her with Stanley Kramer for most best-picture nominations without a win. Frank Marshall, Kennedy's producing partner on "Benjamin Button," would move into second place, going zero-for-five on best picture. "Obviously, we've never won.

> It would be nice to win for this one," Marshall said. "Thirteen nominations is also a lucky number for us, because I was born on Friday the 13th."



Raymond and wife his Tameka Foster mingle at a party for the unveiling of Usher's new fragrances, Usher for Men and Usher for Women, in New York.

(AP Photo/John Smock, file)

## **Usher's wife checks out of Brazil hospital**

By CAROLINA ESCALERA,

**Associated Press Writer** 

SAO PAULO, Brazil - The wife of R&B singer Usher was released from a Sao Paulo hospital after spending 11 days recovering from a cardiac arrest she suffered shortly before undergoing plastic surgery.

A spokeswoman for the Sirio-Libanes Hospital said Wednesday that Tameka Raymond left the facility Monday night but declined to provide any details on Raymond's treatment at the family's request.

The spokewoman spoke on condition of anonymity per hospital policy.

Representatives for Usher had no immediate comment.

Ellen Dastry, a spokeswoman for the doctor who was to perform the plastic surgery, said last week that Raymond suffered a cardiac arrest while being anesthetized ahead of a "simple liposuction" at Sao Paulo's Sao Rafael Hospital.

Raymond was revived in less than a minute with heart massage, and was placed in an induced coma before being taken to the intensive-care unit, said Dastry, spokeswoman for plastic surgeon Silvio Sterman.

She was then transferred to the posh and better-equipped Sirio-Libanes Hospital to recover.

Usher was supposed to perform at music mogul Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party, but backed out to come to Brazil to be with his wife.

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## Judge rules Coleman deposition won't be released



In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, actor Gary Coleman appears on the the NBC 'Today' program in New York.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

PROVO, Utah – A judge has ruled that a videotaped deposition of Gary Coleman won't be released to the public until a personal injury lawsuit against the actor over an incident at a Payson bowling alley is settled.

Fourth District Judge Samuel McVey said Tuesday that he was worried about whether there would be a fair trial if people in a jury pool had seen the video. "I do not want to come in here and have the whole jury challenged off," he said. Terry Plant, Coleman's attorney, said that if the video were released it could spread quickly and destroy Coleman. The 41-year-old actor starred in the "Diff" rent Strokes" TV series.

Dustin Lance, an attorney for Colt Rushton, who is suing Coleman over the September incident in which Coleman allegedly hit Rushton with his truck, objected to keeping the deposition sealed.

Lance said the likelihood of a fair trial is the same whether or not the video is released. He said the case is already known based on media reports and contends that Coleman is asking for special privileges.

"We've got an uphill battle," Lance said. "This case has already been tried in the media." According to court documents, Coleman, his wife and his bodyguard were bowling in Payson in early September when Rushton took a few photos of Coleman with his cell phone camera and took another of Coleman's truck in the parking lot.

Documents say a scuffle ensued and Rushton's cell phone was taken away before Coleman allegedly ran into Rushton with his truck as he was backing out of the parking lot. Coleman pleaded no contest in December to a disorderly conduct charge stemming from the incident and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine. He also pleaded no contest to a reckless driving charge, which will be waived if he doesn't have any other violations within a year.



trubu TODAY

The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

## exas de Brazil offers light and healthy eating

PALM BEACH - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan. Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous

selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking-slow roasting—where much the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses-including fresh buffalo mozzarella-sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to

splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686.□









## **Eagle Beach to be enriched with an Oasis**



EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxary Condominiums is a Caribbeanstyle designed complex located on an 8,750 m2 area and consists of two buildings for a total of units distributed on five (5) floors, with one, two and three bedroom suits with a per-



fect view of the ocean which include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, fancy

kitchen with elegant details and high tech appliances and also an air conditioning system for your comfort.

35-apartment This complex offers a beautiful swimming pool, an elegant two-story lobby, sun-filled hallways and corridors and a well-equipped gym to help you keep fit while enjoying your holiday. Their will be 24/7 security on the property and a full concierge service



which will make your 'coming home' a very pleasant one.

Oasis' location close to the boulevard allows easy access to the best casinos, restaurants, gold courses, shopping areas and night life the island has to offer.

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# BON DIR

On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, February 19, 2009



In a Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009 file photo, Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry, center, speaks while Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, left, and House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, right, listen during a news conference in Austin, Texas. Even as their states face crushing budget deficits and soaring unemployment, the Republican governors of Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas are considering turning down some of the stimulus package money.

**Associated Press** 

# Some U.S. governors may turn down stimulus money

By MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press Writer

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AP) — A handful of Republican governors are considering turning down some money from the federal stimulus package, a move opponents say puts conservative ideology ahead of the needs of constituents struggling with record foreclosures and soaring unemployment.

Though none has outright rejected the money available for education, health care and infrastructure, the governors of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alaska, South Carolina and Idaho have all questioned whether the \$787 billion bill signed into law this week will even help the economy. "My concern is there's going to be commitments attached to it that are a mile long," said Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who considered rejecting some of the money but decided Wednesday to accept it. "We need the freedom to pick and choose. And we need the freedom to say 'No thanks.""

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat, said the governors — some of whom are said to be eyeing White House bids in 2012 — are putting their own interests first.

"No community or constituent should be denied recovery assistance due to their governor's

political ideology or political aspirations," Clyburn, from South Carolina, said Wednesday. In fact, governors who reject some of the stimulus aid may find themselves overridden by their own legislatures because of language Clyburn included in the bill that allows state lawmakers to accept the federal money even if their governors object.

He inserted the provision based on the early and vocal opposition to the stimulus plan by South Carolina's Republican governor, Mark Sanford. But it also means governors like Sanford and Louisiana's Bobby Jindal — a Republican up-and-comer often mentioned as a potential 2012 presidential candidate — can burnish their conservative credentials, knowing all the while that their legislatures can accept the money anyway.

Jindal said he, like Perry and Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, is concerned about strings attached to the money even though his state faces a \$1.7 billion budget shortfall next year. Barbour spokesman Dan Turner, for example, cited concerns that accepting unemployment money from the stimulus package would force states to pay benefits to people who wouldn't meet state requirements to receive them.

Continued on Next Page

## U.S. smoker's widow gets \$8M in damages



Elaine Hess listens to the verdict as one of her attorneys Alex Alvarez writes takes notes, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

### By CURT ANDERSON

### **AP Legal Affairs Writer**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — Philip Morris was ordered by a jury to pay \$8 million in damages to the widow of a smoker who died of lung cancer in a case that could set a standard for some 8,000 similar Florida lawsuits.

The six jurors deliberated over two days before returning the award for Elaine Hess, 63, whose husband Stuart Hess died in 1997 at age 55 after decades as a chain smoker.

Continued on Page B5



A private security guard at the Bank of Antigua, center, reacts to the photographer while blocking the entrance of the St. John's branch in the Caribbean island of Antigua, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

## Depositors rush Stanfordowned Caribbean bank

By BEN FOX

### **Associated Press Writer**

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — Panicky depositors rushed to pull money from banks on Wednesday as leaders in the Caribbean and Latin America urged calm, concerned that their slumping economies could be harmed by the fraud case against Texas financier R. Allen Stanford.

Continued on Page B7

Not all Republican governors are reticent about using the federal cash.

jobs than take that money, and I think he's

looking for a way not to take it."

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist lobbied for the stimulus plan and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue has embraced it as he looks to close a \$2.6 billion deficit in the state's budget this year. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley has already figured the money into his state's budget.

Pearson Cross, a political scientist at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said fiscally conservative governors may be able to give themselves political cover by turning down small portions of the stimulus money, like health care dollars requiring a state match, that they might not fully use anyway. But in the end, he said, they will likely take most of the available money because their states need it so badly.

"Ideology usually takes second place for governors," he said. "And that's going to mean that most governors are going to go ahead and take the money even though they have misgivings about it."



In a Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009 file photo, South Carolina Republican Gov. Mark Sanford gestures as he gives his State of the State address, at the State house in Columbia, S.C. Even as their states face crushing budget deficits and soaring unemployment, the Republican governors of Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas are considering turning down some of the stimulus package money.

## SANFORD Continued from Page B1

In Idaho, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said he wasn't interested in stimulus money that would expand programs and boost the state's costs in future years when the federal dollars disappear — a worry also cited by Jindal and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, last year's Republican vice presidential nominee.

A spokesman said Sanford, the new head of the Republican Governors Association, is looking at the stimulus bill to figure out how much of it he can control.

"We're going through a 1,200-page bill to determine what our options are," Spokesman Joel Sawyer said. "From there, we'll make decisions."

But state Democratic Party chairwoman Carol Fowler says Sanford's hesitation is driven by his political ambition rather than the best interests of a state that had the nation's third-highest unemployment rate in December.

"He's so ideological," Fowler said. "He would rather South Carolina do without





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**Associated Press** 

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## S. tabloid cartoon appears to link Obama to chimp

Many urged a boycott of

the Post and the companies

that advertise with it. Others

denounced what they called

the paper's Republican slant.

It is not the first time that

**By KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press Writer** 

NEW YORK (AP) — A tabloid newspaper cartoon that appears to link President Barack Obama to a violent chimpanzee drew outrage Wednesday from civil rights leaders and elected officials who said it echoed racist stereotypes of blacks as monkeys.

The New York Post cartoon by Sean Delonas shows a dead chimp and two police officers, one with a smoking gun. The caption reads, "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

The Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid's cartoon refers to Travis the chimp, who was shot to death by police in Connecticut on Monday after it mauled a friend of its owner. Obama, the first black U.S. president, signed his administration's economic stimulus plan on Tuesday.

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs declined to comment on the cartoon Wednesday. "I have not seen the cartoon," he told reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama returned to Washington from Arizona, where he announced his plan to deal with the foreclosure crisis. "But I don't think it's altogether newsworthy reading the New York Post." Critics called the cartoon racist and said it trivialized a tragedy in which a woman was disfigured and a chimpanzee killed.

"How could The Post let this cartoon pass as satire?" said Barbara Ciara, president of the National Association of Black Journalists. "To compare the nation's first African-American commander in chief to a dead chimpanzee is nothing short of racist drivel."

Civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton called the cartoon "troubling at best given the historic racist attacks of African-Americans as being synonymous with monkeys.' He planned to picket the Post on Thursday along with City Councilman Charles Barron, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry and others. Other protesters planned to target the building Wednesday afternoon.

Col Allan, editor-in-chief of the Post, defended the work.

"The cartoon is a clear parody of a current news event, to wit the shooting of a violent chimpanzee in Connecticut. It broadly mocks Washington's efforts to revive the economy. Again, Al Sharpton reveals himself as nothing more than a publicity opportunist."

The cartoon drew hundreds of comments on the Internet and on the liberal Huffington Post Web site, where reporter Sam Stein wrote: "At its most benign, the cartoon suggests that the stimulus bill was so bad, monkeys may as well have written it. Most provocatively, it compares the president to a rabid chimp."



This cartoon image provided by the New York Post appeared in the Post's Page Six Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009. The cartoon, which refers to Travis the chimp, who was shot to death by police in Stamford, Conn. on Monday after it mauled a friend of its owner, drew criticism Wednesday on media Web sites and from civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton.

**Associated Press** cartoonist for the Post's Page compared gay people seeking Six, has raised eyebrows with

McDonald.

marriage licenses to sheep a heavy-handed caricature. An lovers. In a cartoon from last month, an enormous Jessica Simpson dumps boyfriend Tony Romo for Ronald

earlier Delonas cartoon made fun of Paul McCartney's exwife Heather Mills for having only one leg, and another





## 'Truth commission' could spark more partisanship

By LARRY MARGASAK Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic-proposed "truth commission" to investigate the Bush administration is generating more partisanship in a Congress already filled with it.

Republicans are almost universally opposed, and President Barack Obama does not appear to be enthralled with the idea either, saying at his first prime-time news conference he would consider the proposal but wants to look forward, not backward.

Sponsors said the commission could investigate who — in the ex-president's inner circle — drove the harsh interrogations and warrantless surveillance programs, and probe White House involvement in politically motivated hirings and firings in Bush's Justice Department.

There is more to learn, since the Bush administration has kept many documents on these subjects secret and ordered three former White House officials not to testify before Congress. But Obama's Justice Department also is resisting pressure to release those



Sen. James Webb, D-Va., center, flanked by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, right, and Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, before the Wartime Contracting Commission hearing into Iraq inspector general Stuart Bowen's critical account of the Bush administration's blunders in post-war reconstruction efforts.

**Associated Press** 

documents.

If Democrats in Congress proceed, it would be one more bruising political debate in a Congress that's had plenty of them since convening last month.

Party splits dominated debates over an economic stimulus package and equal pay for women, and were prominent in the confirmations of Attorney General Eric Holder and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, the decision by former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to pull his nomination to be Health and Human

Services secretary, and a health insurance bill to cover more children.

The most outspoken champions of a commission to investigate the Bush administration are Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary committees. Both lawmakers plan to proceed, despite Obama's comment.

"Investigations are not a matter of payback or political revenge," said Conyers.

"It is our responsibility to examine what has occurred and to set an appropriate baseline of conduct for future administrations."

There's "an oversight responsibility that has to be carried out," Leahy said, adding that he wants to discuss the idea further with Obama.

Obama stopped short of quashing the idea, saying he would look at Leahy's proposal.

"Nobody's above the law and if there are clear instances of wrongdoing, then people should be prosecuted just like any ordinary citizen," he said. "But ... generally speaking, I'm more interested in looking forward than I am in looking back."

Leahy, who came up with the "truth commission" label, and Conyers — who already introduced a bill for a "blue ribbon" panel, contended an investigative body outside Congress would take the investigation away from politics. Republicans countered it would do exactly the opposite — and have the votes to kill it in the Senate with a filibuster to block it from coming up for a vote.

Why do Democrats need a commission to get information from a Justice Department now run by their own party, asked Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"You just have to walk in and ask where the file cabinets are," Specter said in an interview.

Specter is anything but a doctrinaire Republican. He was one of three Senate Republicans who supported the Democratic economic stimulus plan. He supported Holder's confirmation. He voted for the Democratic children's health care bill.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who also voted for Holder, called the "truth commission" suggestion "this left-driven desire to prosecute people" over Bush's anti-terrorism policies.



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## U.S. REGIONAL B5 Thursday, February 19, 2009

### **SMOKERS WIDOW** Continued rom Page B1

The award amounts to \$3 million in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages against Richmond, Virginia-based Philip Morris USA, a unit of Altria Group Inc. Hess's attorneys sought up to \$130 million. "It wasn't about the money from the beginning," Hess said after the verdict. "It was about doing the right thing. I just really hope this can help all the thousands of families who have also suffered." The Hess case was the first to go to trial since the Florida Supreme Court in 2006 voided a \$145 billion class-action jury award in the so-called Engle case, by far the highest punitive damage award in U.S. history. The court said each smoker's case had to be decided individually on its merits, but let stand that jury's findings that tobacco companies knowingly sold dangerous products and hid risks from the public.

To be included in those findings, smokers or their families had to file individual lawsuits by Jan. 11, 2008.

Altria, the Philip Morris parent, issued a statement calling

the Florida legal procedure "profoundly flawed" and predicted the damage awards would be reduced or thrown out on appeal.

"We plan to challenge the verdict in the trial court and, if necessary, on appeal," said Murray Garnick, an Altria Client Services vice president and associate general counsel. "We do not believe today's verdict is predictive of the outcome of future cases."

The Hess trial, which began Feb. 3, included video of the widely discredited 1994 testimony before Congress in which top executives of the major tobacco companies, Philip including Morris, denied that smoking was addictive. The jury in the Hess case previously found that Stuart Hess was hopelessly addicted, even as Philip Morris attorneys pointed to evidence he was capable of quitting.

The jury did find that Hess was 58 percent responsible for the cigarette addiction that led to his death. If Philip Morris prevails on appeal, that could cut the compensatory damage award from \$3 million to about \$1.3 million.

The jurors declined comment after the verdict. The Hess

case has been closely watched by the tobacco industry and by the thousands of other Florida smokers and survivors who have sued. Although it does not directly control the outcome of the other lawsuits, the Hess case could signal how many of them will turn out. The original Florida lawsuit was filed in 1994 by a Miami Beach pediatrician, Dr. Howard Engle, who had smoked for decades and couldn't quit. The class of smokers was estimated at up to 700,000 when the giant \$145 billion award was issued in 2000.



Philip Morris' Marlboro cigarettes on display at a market in Palo Alto, Calif., Monday, Feb. 2, 2009. Cigarette maker Philip Morris International Inc. said Wednesday, Feb. 4, its fourth-quarter profit fell nearly 8 percent as the dollar's strength hurt profits.

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## Aruba\_TODAY

## Pope to U.S. Speaker Pelosi: Reject abortion support

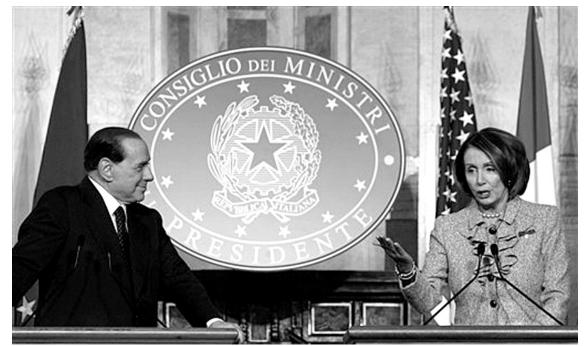
By VICTOR L. SIMPSON Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY (AP ) — Pope Benedict XVI has received Nancy Pelosi, one of the most prominent abortion rights politicians in America, and told her that Catholic politicians have a duty to protect life "at all stages of its development." The U.S. House speaker, a Catholic, was the first Democrat to meet with Benedict since the election of Barack Obama, who won a majority of the U.S. Catholic vote despite differences with the Vatican on abortion.

On his fourth day in office last month, Obama ended a ban on funds international groups perform abortions provide information on the option — a sharp policy change from former President George W. Bush's Republican administration. The Vatican's attempts to keep the Pelosi visit Wednesday low-profile displayed its obvious unease with the new U.S. administration. Benedict and Bush had found common ground in opposing abortion, an issue that drew them together despite their differences over the war in Iraq.

Wednesday's meeting, in a small room off a Vatican auditorium after the pope's weekly public audience, was closed to reporters and photographers.

The Vatican also said —



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, right, delivers her address with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi during a joint-press in Villa Madama residence, in Rome, Tuesday Feb. 17, 2009. Pelosi is on an official visit in Italy till Wednesday Feb. 18, 2009.

**Associated Press** 

contrary to its usual policy when the pope meets world leaders — that it was not issuing either a photo or video of the encounter, claiming the meeting was private.

A short statement from the Vatican said the pope "briefly greeted" Pelosi and did not mention any other subject they may have discussed besides abortion. In their 15-minute meeting, the Vatican said Benedict spoke of the church's teaching "on the dignity of human life from conception to natural death."

That is an expression often used by the pope when expressing opposition to abortion.

Benedict said all Catholics

— especially legislators,
jurists and political leaders

— should work to create "a
just system of laws capable

of protecting human life at all stages of its development," the Vatican said.

Pelosi, for her part, did not even mention the pope's allusion to abortion.

In a statement issued by her office, Pelosi said it was with "great joy" that she and her husband Paul met with Benedict.

"In our conversation, I had the opportunity to praise the Church's leadership in fighting poverty, hunger and global warming, as well as the Holy Father's dedication to religious freedom and his upcoming trip and message to Israel," Pelosi said.

"I was proud to show His Holiness a photograph of my family's papal visit in the 1950s, as well as a recent picture of our children and grandchildren," said the California congresswoman, who has often expressed

pride in her religious heritage.

Pelosi is the third person in line in U.S. government, after Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden.

The treatment of Pelosi echoed the Vatican's earlier treatment of Geraldine Ferraro, a Catholic who was the Democratic vice presidential candidate in 1984. The Vatican did not disguise its irritation at Ferraro's position that she opposed abortion but also opposed outlawing it.

Pope John Paul II's meeting with Ferraro in 1985 was never officially announced and — like the Pelosi audience — no photo was released.

While some Vatican officials under Benedict have been openly critical of the Democrats and Obama over abortion — former

St. Louis Archbishop
Raymond Burke has
said the Democrats risk
becoming a "party of death"
— Benedict has cautiously
welcomed Obama's new
administration.

Still, a number of bishops in the United States have questioned Pelosi's stance on abortion, particularly her theological defense of her support for abortion rights.

The question of how much religion should influence American politicians came to the forefront with the 1960 election of John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic to become U.S. president, and has continued to this day.

A number of American lawmakers who support abortion rights attended Benedict's Mass in Washington last April, including Pelosi and Sen. John Kerry, the former Democratic presidential candidate in 2004.

During the 2004 campaign, several U.S. bishops questioned whether Kerry should receive Communion because of his stand on abortion. But no American priest or bishop tried to deny Kerry Communion. At the April 2008 papal Mass, Kerry took Communion from a priest far from the papal altar.

Pelosi also had meetings with Italian leaders in the past few days, including Premier Silvio Berlusconi



WORLD NEWS B7
Thursday, February 19, 2009



## STANFORD Continued from Page B1

Hundreds of people lined up outside two branches of the Bank of Antigua, a Stanford-owned institution that has been flooded with fearful customers since the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed a complaint Tuesday accusing him of an \$8 billion fraud.

"People have to come to get their money," said Rasta Kente, an electrician who joined a line that stretched around the corner at a downtown bank branch. Three security officers allowed only a few people to enter at a time.

Many of those waiting clutched portable radios to listen to financial news.

Local regulators said the bank's finances are sound and appealed for calm. The bank, owned by the Stanford Financial Group, one of Stanford's Houston-based financial advisory firms, was flooded by depositors even though it is not part of the U.S. complaint.

"If individuals persist in rushing to the bank in a panic they will precipitate the very situation that we are all trying to avoid," said K. Dwight Venner, governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the banking regulator for Antigua and seven other islands.

U.S. regulators on Tuesday charged Stanford, a Texas billionaire who has become one of the most successful businessmen in the Caribbean, and three of his companies of perpetrating a "massive" \$8 billion fraud that centered around high-interest-rate certificate of deposits.



A client copies statements posted by Stanford International Bank at the entrance of its office in Mexico City, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009. Panicky depositors were turned away from Stanford International Bank and some of its Latin American affiliates Wednesday, unable to withdraw their money after U.S. regulators accused Texas financier R. Allen Stanford of perpetrating an \$8 billion fraud against his companies' investors.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission froze the assets of Houston-based Stanford Group Company, Houston's Stanford Capital Management, and Antiguabased Stanford International Bank. The latter also has offices in Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

The charges have "profoundly serious implications" for Antigua, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer said late Tuesday.

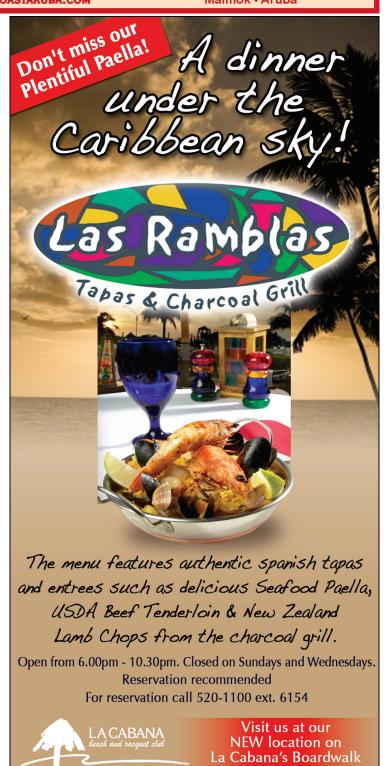
The regional central bank said it will do "what it takes" to preserve the soundness of the banking system in the twinisland nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

Colombian authorities, meanwhile, suspended the activities of Stanford International brokerage Wednesday

Associated Press morning to protect "clients and investors," according to a statement from the Colombian Superintendency of Finance.

The brokerage posted the equivalent of \$3.5 million in losses last year, more than any of the 39 brokerages licensed to trade on Colombia's exchange, and ended 2008 with 21,493 billion pesos, or \$8.6 million, in capital, the Superintendency said. Stanford does not operate a retail bank in Colombia.

Regulators in Panama took over branches of Stanford's unit there following a run on deposits Tuesday. The Superintendent of Banks said it was responding to "an isolated event as a consequence of decisions adopted by foreign authorities," and said that it did not reflect "a deterioration in the financial situation of the bank in Panama."



Thursday, February 19, 2009 ADVERTISEMENT

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## ADVERTISEMENT B9 Thursday, February 19, 2009

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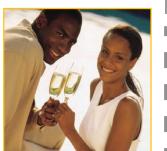
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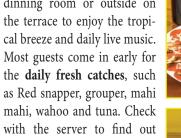
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PALM BEACH - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. PALM BEACH - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. Word on the street is that once you eat at Fishes and More, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside

in the relaxed air-conditioned



the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. Thechefwillbemorethanhappy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These





specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wiener schnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. Great Seafood!!! Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner  $\square$ 





Catch of the day Filet Mignon Fettuccini Alfredo Chicken Breast

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Open Daily from 4pm - 11pm For info. and reservations call 586-3659

.E. Irausquin Blvd. 370 Palm Beach, Arawak Gardens

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IIa moss twin-set nougat legatte Michael Stars, WEE

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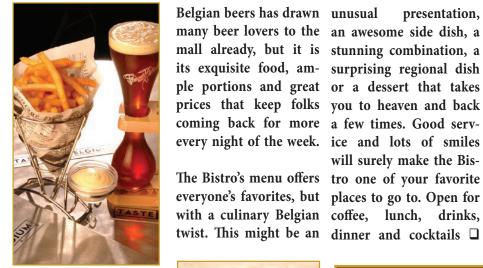
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Holiday Inn Resort. It is

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lax and lounge away the

afternoon and evening

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derneath the stars. The

Bistro's great selection of

mall already, but it is stunning combination, a its exquisite food, am- surprising regional dish ple portions and great or a dessert that takes prices that keep folks you to heaven and back coming back for more a few times. Good servevery night of the week. ice and lots of smiles will surely make the Bis-The Bistro's menu offers tro one of your favorite everyone's favorites, but places to go to. Open for with a culinary Belgian coffee, lunch, drinks, twist. This might be an dinner and cocktails  $\square$ 

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For information, please mail to:

chocolaterie@tasteofbelgium.aw bistro@tasteofbelgium.aw catering@tasteofbelgium.aw reservations@papillonaruba.com Thursday, February 19, 2009 SPORTS

## 4rubu TODAY

NBA Roundup

## Howard scores career-high 45 in win over Bobcats

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Dwight Howard had a careerhigh 45 points, to go with 19 rebounds and eight blocks to lead the Orlando Magic to a 107-102 overtime victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Tuesday.

The Magic got 17 points from Rashard Lewis, who joined Howard on the Eastern Conference All-Star team last weekend. It was the 18th consecutive double-double for Howard, tying Shaquille O'Neal's franchise record.

J.J. Redick made a 3-pointer with eight seconds left in regulation to tie it and Raymond Felton missed a jumper as time expired.

Boris Diaw made a layup over Howard with 20 seconds remaining and Raja Bell made two free throws for a 95-92 lead before Redick's tying shot.

Suns 140, Clippers 100 At Phoenix, Leandro Barbosa scored 24 points and Amare Stoudemire added 23 against the Los Angeles Clippers in Alvin Gentry's debut as interim Phoenix coach

One day after Gentry replaced Terry Porter, who was fired after a 28-23 start, the Suns wasted little time blowing out the woeful Clippers. Reverting to its favored up-tempo style, Phoenix (29-23) raced to an 81-49 halftime lead — matching a U.S. Airways Center record for points in a half — and coasted from there.

Only the New York Knicks, led by former Suns coach Mike D'Antoni, have scored more points in a half this year — 82, against Golden State on Nov. 29, 2008.

Eric Gordon had 24 points for the Clippers.

The Clippers' Zach Randolph was ejected in the first quarter for punching Phoenix's Louis Amundson.

Knicks 112, Spurs 107, OT At New York, Nate Robinson followed his slam dunk title by showing off his entire game, scoring 32 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in New York's win over San Antonio.

Robinson made the go-ahead basket in his third straight 30point game. In the final game



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) takes a shot over Charlotte Bobcats center Emeka Okafor (50) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009. Orlando won 107-102 in overtime.

**Associated Press** 

before heading to Phoenix to knock off Dwight Howard and win the slam dunk contest, he had 33 points, a career-high 15 assists, nine rebounds and five steals in an overtime loss to the Los Angeles Clippers — the first NBA player with 30 points plus those numbers since Magic Johnson in 1981.

Lakers 96, Hawks 83

At Los Angeles, Pau Gasol had 12 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for his third career tripledouble as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Atlanta.

Lamar Odom had 15 points and 20 rebounds, Derek Fisher scored 14 points, and Trevor Ariza and Jordan Farmar added 10 points each on a night when Kobe Bryant scored a seasonlow 10 points.

All-Star Joe Johnson scored 14 points and Josh Smith added 13 for the Hawks, who had their three-game road winning streak end on the first night of their five-game West Coast trip. Atlanta, fourth in the Eastern Conference standings, had won four of five heading into the



New York Islanders' Jeff Tambellini (15) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring the game-winning goal in a shootout to give the Islanders a 3-2 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins in an NHL hockey game Monday, Feb. 16, 2009, at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y.

**Associated Press** 

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Frans Nielsen and Jeff Tambellini scored shootout goals, and Joey MacDonald turned aside Pittsburgh stars Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby in the tiebreaker to lift the lowly New York Islanders to a 3-2 victory Monday.

Dan Bylsma's first game behind

the Pittsburgh Penguins bench ended like so many under former coach Michel Therrien: with a loss.

Bylsma got the call that he would replace Therrien on Sunday, just before he was set to coach his Wilkes Barre-Scranton club in an AHL game. Pittsburgh fell to 1-7-2 on the *NHL Roundup* 

## **Bylsma's first game as** Pens coach ends in SO loss

Chris Campoli and Frans Nielsen scored for New York, which owns the NHL's worst record (17-33-6). MacDonald stopped 35 shots before the tiebreaker.

Neal scored the only goal in the shootout and Marty Turco had 41 saves to lead Dallas past Columbus.

Neal, 6-for-9 in shootouts this season, slipped the puck past Steve Mason on the glove side. Turco, tested all night, then made a blocker save on Blue Jackets captain Rick Nash to preserve the win.

Dallas' Brad Richards scored 27

most of the crowd of 15,006 had settled in. Loui Eriksson collected his 27th to tie it in the second period.

R.J. Umberger had both Blue Jackets goals in a span of 1:29 in Stars 3, Blue Jackets 2, SO the second period — the fastest At Columbus, Ohio, James goals ever by a Columbus goals ever by a Columbus player.

Blues 2, Rangers 1 At St. Louis, B.J. Crombeen scored the go-ahead goal on a rebound with 5:14 to play, lifting St. Louis over the New York Rangers.

Lauri Korpikoski had the lone goal for the Rangers, who have lost eight of nine while scoring two or fewer goals in all but one. New York is 0-6-1 in its

seconds into the game, before last seven on the road, this time falling to a franchise whose rebuilding job is led by longtime Rangers broadcaster and former goalie John Davidson.

> Chris Mason made 19 saves and Carlo Colaiacovo also scored for the Blues, 4-1-2 in their last seven games while trying to inch into playoff contention.

> Henrik Lundqvist had 31 saves a day after brought off in the second period of a loss at Philadelphia.

> At Nashville, Tennessee, Nick Foligno and Dany Heatley scored first-period goals, and Alex Auld made 24 saves to lead Ottawa past Nashville for its season-high fifth straight victory.



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178 m2 / 1,913 sq.ft. 3 / 2 plus two ½

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### NEW: Las Palmas I, 27, Royal Condo

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Downstairs: One spacious master bedroom suite with full bath and walk in closet, dining room, living room, patio, granite top kitchen, all appliances, powder room & storage. Upstairs: Two spacious bedrooms with closets, one shared full bathroom, two terraces with golf, ocean and city views. One car garage. Priced at: US\$650,000





NEW

### NEW: Las Palmas I, 26, Royal Condo

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### **NEW: Las Palmas I, 32B Sabal**

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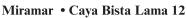
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VILLA HOMESITES

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Calendar Period: December 2008 - January 2009
week# 8, Dutch Village - studio week# 9 ,La Cabana- 1Bdr delux week# 9

R#133, Poolview .- US\$7,500
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bdr
Supreme,OceanFront US\$30,000

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000 week#2-17-OccidentaGrandl-1B Delux,OceanView- US\$14,000

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000 week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000

week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000

week#2+3+4,-LaCabana-1Bdx R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$15,000pw week# 5 + 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr

R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000 week# 6 -DiviPhoenix -1Bdr R#601-Oceanview-US\$10,000

week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000 week# 3 + 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr, R#2142,Oceanv-US\$13,000pw

PlatimumW#1-17,Marriott Surf - 3bdr,OceanView -US\$50,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf

2bdr,Gardenview-US\$25,000 week# 8 . La Cabana -2Bdr

R#301E,OceanFr-US\$25,000 week# 2+3, Renaissance-1Bdr.

R#2327,POV- US\$13,000 p.w week# 3+4 La Cabana -2Bdr.

R#346E,OceanFr-US\$25,000pw week#5+6La Cabana-2Bdr. R#346EOceanFr-US\$25,000pw

week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510,poolview- US\$12,000

week#-7,Renaissance S.- 1Bdr R#2537,Poolocean-US\$15,000

Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000

Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000

Week# 7,La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339,OceanFr-US\$8,000

Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c,OceanVi-US\$9,000 week# 9 ,La Cabana- 1Bdr delux R#401d, OceanFront- US\$20,000

Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000

Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613,PoolOcean-US\$18,000 Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr

R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500 FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000

PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000

PlatimumW#1-17.Marriott Ocear 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$23,000 PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean

2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000
PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean

2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000 week# 1 -Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000

week#10, DutchVillage - 2Bdr R#212,on the beach-US\$20,000 week# 6+7,Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541 .Poolview-US\$8,000pw

week# 11,DutchVillage - 2Bdr. R#46/49,O.The B.-US\$18,000 week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr.

R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000 week#9 .La Cabana B.R.C- stu.

R#444B,OceanPool-US\$7,000 week# 4+5,Costa Linda -2Br

R#4019,OceanP-US\$60,000

week# 4 + 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108,Oceanfr.-US\$12,000pw

week#10, DutchVillage -1 Bdr. R#28 ,on the beach-US\$9,000 2x week2-17,OccidentalGr-1Bd. supreme,Oceanfr. - US\$35,000

week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000 week# 3+4. ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr.

R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr.

R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000 week#8 ,Aruban Resort - 1Bdr.

R#1537, Poolview - US\$9,000 week# 8&9,Aruban Resort,-1Bdr R#1519, Poolv- US\$18,000 p.w. week# 9 - DiviLinks - Studio R#4205, poolv. - US\$15,000

week# 7+8- DiviLinks - Studio. R#4205,Poolview- US\$30,000

week# 3 -DiviVillage -studio R#5508,Golfpoolv.-US\$8,000

week#3+4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw

week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000 week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr.

R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000 week#9-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath

R#211,Oceanfront- US\$20,000 2xweek#1-17Occidental-Bdrsup. Oceanfro-US\$35,000Bothweeks

week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000 week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr

weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a-,Oceanview-US\$9,000 week# 9, DutchVillage - 1Bdr

R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000

R#123,on the beach-US\$8,000 week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000

week# 10-DiviVillage -studio R#3101,Poolview-US\$10,000

week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000

week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000

week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105,OceanPo,US\$11,500

week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000

week# 11-Divi village -Studio R#8202,Oceanview-US\$10,000

week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw

week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000

week#11,Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49,PooIV US\$18,000pw

For rent: week 8, Renaissance-R#2536,1Br-OceanV-US\$1,500

week#10.DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121,Poolview-US\$8,000

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# Cientos de latinoamericanos en vilo por fraude de Stanford

CARACAS (Reuters) - Cientos de inversionistas en varios países de América Latina entraron en pánico el miércoles mientras buscaban retirar sus ahorros de bancos y otras entidades vinculadas al Stanford International Bank, acusado por Estados Unidos de cometer un "fraude masivo".

Firmas financieras que operan bajo el nombre de Stanford en la región emitieron comunicados asegurando que funcionan de forma autónoma a la matriz, en un intento por calmar a clientes que temen haber perdido sus fondos en momentos en que la crisis financiera global ha quebrado bancos y barrido inversiones.

Pero la acusación del regulador bursátil estadounidense al magnate Allen Stanford y tres de sus firmas de haber vendido 8.000 millones de dólares en certificados fraudulentos puso en vilo a depositantes e inversionistas, que acudieron a las oficinas de Stanford con la esperanza de llevarse su dinero.

"Escuché lo que estaba pasando y viene directo para acá. Hemos tenido dinero aquí dos años y quiero que me lo devuelvan", dijo Josefina Moreno, quien explicó que junto a su hijo tienen invertido unos 10.000 dólares, mientras esperaba en una sede de Stanford en Caracas.

Con sede central en Antigua, el grupo opera en Colombia, Ecuador, México, Panamá, Perú y Venezuela en lujosas instalaciones ubicadas en zonas de clase media y alta, donde captaban a sus clientes mediante atractivos instrumentos de inversión con retornos superiores al 8 por ciento.

El caso disparó inmediatamente comparaciones con el caso del financista Bernard Madoff, acusado de una estafa con un esquema piramidal que podría haber generado pérdidas por hasta 50.000 millones de dólares, la mayor en la historia de Wall Street.

## MUESTRENME EL DINERO

El mayor impacto sería para inversionistas venezolanos, que

según cálculos provisionales del regulador bancario tendrían unos 2.500 millones de dólares en fondos depositados en la entidad basada en el isla caribeña. Unas 200 personas aguardaron a las puertas de la sede de Stanford Group Asesores de Inversión en Caracas, firma que canaliza inversiones en el exterior. Un ejecutivo dijo a Reuters que todas las cuentas están congeladas, mientras pedía a la gente volver a sus hogares para esperar más información.

También en el Stanford Bank

Venezuela, un pequeño banco cuyas operaciones no son internacionales y se centran en depósitos inversiones locales, algunos ahorristas prefirieron sacar su dinero por la incertidumbre en torno a su dueño pese a que el regulador bancario aseguró que está "sano".

Las oficinas de Stanford Fondos en Ciudad de México -que funciona como distribuidora de sociedades de inversión mexicanas- estaban cerradas al público y decenas de clientes llenaron formularios en espera de ser atendidos.

"No quiero perder nada de mi dinero, han sido los ahorros de mi vida", dijo Rosa María, una pensionada de 69 años que acudió a hacer fila en las puertas de la oficina ubicada en el lujoso barrio de Polanco, luego de que su ejecutivo de cuenta no contestara sus llamadas.







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